

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR'S BRIEFING

1/9/13

Event: Discuss EPA's NEPA Scoping Comments for the Gateway Pacific Terminals Bulk Dry Goods Shipping Facility and the Custer Rail Expansion Projects

Time: 11:00 am – 11:45 am

Location: RA's Office

Meeting Overview:

Informational/advice on language in letter and on headquarters elevation

Attendees:

Dennis McLerran, Michelle Pirzadeh, Bill Dunbar, Dan Opalski, Linda Anderson-Carnahan, Christine Reichgott, Michael Szerlog, Krista Rave-Perkins, Erik Peterson, Marianne Holsman.

Key Issues:

- Subjects and language in EPA's draft NEPA scoping comments.
- HQ review and coordination.

Background:

Pacific International Terminals, a subsidiary of SSA Marine, has proposed building a deep-water marine terminal at Cherry Point in Whatcom County. The proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal would handle import and export of up to 54 million dry metric tons per year of bulk commodities, mostly exporting coal from the Powder River Basin.

In a related project, BNSF Railway Inc. has proposed adding rail facilities adjacent to the terminal site and installing a second track along the six-mile Custer Spur.

The Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Ecology, and Whatcom County are leading the NEPA/SEPA process to analyze alternatives, potential impacts, and mitigation options. The scoping process is underway (from September 24th, 2012 – January 21st, 2013). The public has been invited to comment in person at public meetings, by letter, or online to recommend what should be covered in the document and in what detail including: reasonable range of alternatives; potentially affected resources and extent of analysis for those resources; significant unavoidable adverse impacts; and measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate effects of the proposals.

EPA Region 10 is preparing scoping comments in coordination with OFA at Headquarters. The letter is due on January 22nd, 2013. We need to thoroughly vet language, brief appropriate EPA officials, and plan for press. The letter is undergoing staff and mid-manager review at the Region and HQ. We need upper management advice on particular aspects. Language under the following subjects is highlighted for your attention in the attached draft letter:

Scope

Environmental Justice

Health Impact Analysis

Cumulative Impacts

Combustion of Exported Coal

Regional Climate Change Issues

GHG Emissions Associated with the Terminal and Rail Expansion

Status of Letter

We are preparing a version of the letter that will incorporate comments we hear from you today, and those that will come from further discussion with OFA about some of the deleted sections (e.g. Intercontinental Transport of Air Pollutants, Keating's work). We plan to circulate the updated version early next week.

Attachments:

January 8, 2013 DRAFT - 12-0015-COE NOI Gateway Pacific Terminal.docx

Staff Contacts:

Teena Reichgott, Erik Peterson